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(72) Inventors:
• **Dvorkis, Paul**
E. Setauket, NY 11733 (US)
• **Barkan, Edward**
Miller Place, NY 11764 (US)

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(74) Representative: **Wagner, Karl H., Dipl.-Ing. et al**
WAGNER & GEYER
Patentanwälte
Gewürzmühlstrasse 5
80538 München (DE)

(54) **Optical path design for scanning assembly in compact bar code readers**

(57) A retroreflective optical scan module, for example in a bar code reader having a window, including a light source (18) for directing a light beam (30) to a symbol to be read, and an optical assembly including a light collecting portion (28) which collects and redirects the

light along an optical path to a sensor (40), wherein the optical axis of the light collecting portion is displaced from that of the emitted light beam (30) so that emitted light partially reflected by the window of the reader does not illuminate the sensor (40).

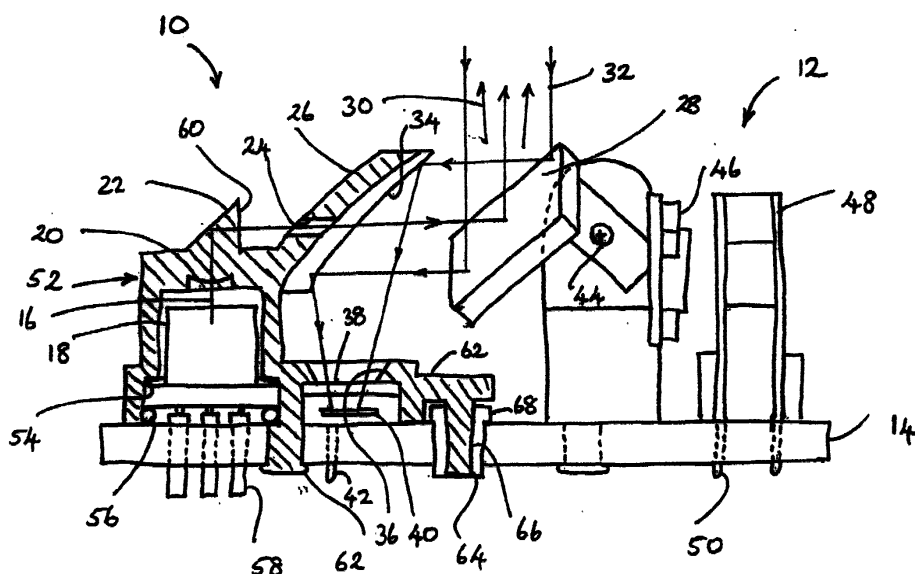


Figure 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		28 March 2002	Bhalodia, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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